

'TUT' Proposes Benstead, Isen, Drale for April Council Race

'TUT' Born In Secret Meetings

By JACK O. BALDWIN

Cluttering the city hall steps this week is some choice chatter about who is and who isn't going to enter the City Council race, which officially opens tomorrow.

Back for another grab at the gold ring, it appears, will be Victor Benstead who rode his councilmanic merry-go-round to a third place in the last council race. The winner and place horses were ridden by Harvey B. Spelman Jr. and Willys G. Blount, whose terms do not expire for another two years.

Nick Drale, present member of the council, has indicated that he is ready for another go-round on the council and will be Benstead's running mate.

Both Drale and Benstead are considered big wheels in the Steelworkers' Union and undoubtedly will receive both voting and financial support from the union. However, their position is not as strong as it was two years ago for two reasons:

First, they were both leaders in the recent walkout which ended Monday night after a 28-day, no-pay layoff of the 1250 steelworkers at Columbia Steel. Secondly, the voters may not go for two labor candidates on the same ballot.

There are three seats on the council which will become vacant in April. Music for the merry-go-round in April is likely to be the "Third Man Theme" with Al Isen, one-time candidate for the Board of Education, chosen as the third man on the ticket. Put them all together and you get "TUT."

"Tut" is a word coined by using the first letters of the clique sponsoring Benstead, Isen, and Drale. The backers shortly will file incorporation papers as the Torrancia Unified Taxpayers.

The TUT organization was born at one of several "secret" meetings. This is ironical, attending the meetings were some with political axes to grind who have blasted the present City Council for conducting what the TUT organizers consider "secret" meetings. These so-called secret meetings (agenda meetings) of the council will no doubt become a plank in the TUT platform once the platform is formulated.

The Torrancia Herald was never invited to attend the "secret" TUT meetings. At one time the group considered adopting a motto something like "Get Your BID in Early." The word BID being taken from the initials of Benstead, Isen and Drale. The plan was dropped in favor of the more dignified TUT.

King TUT in the organization, the man who turns the crank, is reported to be Frank S. Scler, executive secretary of Harbor Area Employers Council. It was the members of the Employers Council that suffered the recent five-day strike by members of the Retail Clerks Union, Local No. 905.

Holding up one corner of the "TUT" platform is Bob Watson, president of the Retail Clerks Union, the same union which locked horns with the Employers Council last Friday.

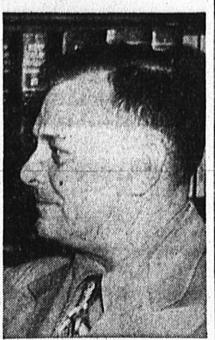
On good authority, Watson is reported to have said he would "get" to work on Kethlor Knolls to support the three "TUT" candidates. He lives at 2138 Middlebrook Rd. The political pow-wows, at which at least 18 members have attended, have taken place in the home of A. C. "Buck" Gianini, one-time chairman of the



AL ISEN ... Third Man Theme



NICK DRALE ... Ready For Round Two



VIC BENSTEAD ... He'll Try It Again

Planning Commission who resigned after an argument with the present council.

Two members of another city agency, the Recreation Commission, have indicated by attending the meetings that they will be on the band wagon come election time.

They are J. A. Beasley, Walteria feed store merchant, and A. J. Patronsky, a candidate for the City Council at the last election. He is secretary of "TUT." He lives in Hollywood Riviera.

Editorial support of the "TUT" candidates is apparently to be furnished by the Torrancia Press, formerly the Peninsula Press, a throw-away weekly claiming circulation in Lomita, Harbor City and some parts of Torrancia.

Promise of the support was given at one of the meetings by Mrs. Mary Louise Owens, one of the editors; Bob Owens, her husband; Harry Klissner, another editor and Bill Zappas, advertising salesman.

At one of the early meetings of the group, Howard Percy, local realtor, asked Mrs. Owens: "How far north do you circulate?"

"We stop at 174th street," she said. "How much would it cost a week to get coverage in North Torrancia?" Percy is reported asking Mrs. Owens.

"About \$100," she claimed. "All right, we have about five issues we want to circulate in North Torrancia. That's \$500. I'll underwrite the first \$100. I don't give a ... where we get the rest of the money, but we'll get it," promised Percy.

In all, "TUT" at the moment boasts about 18 members. Some of the others attending the meetings have been Mrs. Don Menger, 3333 Cricklewood St., Pacific Hills; Mr. and Mrs. Adis Thomas, 22401 Ocean Ave., Welteria; Jim Minter, 3031 Winlock Rd., Pacific Hills; James Gray Jr., 16413 Illinois Ct., No. Torrancia; Bob Watson, 2138 Middlebrook Rd., Kettle; Kneib; Nick Zelen Sr., father of Nick Drale, who dropped the Z from his name some years ago; and Maurice Hattem, 820 Maple Ave., Torrancia Gardens.

Just what the strategy of the

On the other side of the political fence, and the prime target at the next election, is Councilman Ed Karlow who this week tossed his hat into the ring by declaring he would take up a nomination petition tomorrow and Mayor Bob L. Haggard. Although the mayor has not officially declared his intentions, it is a rather general opinion that he will seek reelection.

And so sounds the trumpet calling the councilmanic contestants to the post in a race that is promising to be a dilly between the favorites and the all-anglers threatening dark horses.

George Downing, also a candidate for the council at the last election, undoubtedly will run again—although not with the support of "TUT." Considered by the group as a "poor risk" as a potential vote-getter, Downing will have to play it as a lone wolf.

The carrier will augment the fleet of nine now serving Torrancia schools.

Other items on the evening's agenda included the reading of a letter from the Federal Security Administration stating that recommendations had been made to the Commissioner of Education in Washington, D. C. for a \$28,625 payment to the local system. The funds will be used to offset the financial load encountered by recent population gains.

More than \$130,000 has been received in Federal aid already under Public Law 874, Dr. J. H. Hull, school superintendent, reported.

Employment of certified personnel for the remainder of the school year for the following teachers was approved: Lavern Gayman, Ethel Gill, Helen Henningsen, Ruth Remel and William J. Clary.

The resignation for India E. Stanford also was approved.

School Bus Need In No. Torrancia Told By Parents

Immediate steps should be taken to provide adequate transportation for school children living in a North Torrancia area to nearby elementary schools, the Board of Education was told Tuesday night by spokesmen for 42 parents who attended the session.

Jack E. White, leader of the North Torrancia Improvement Association, said that children attending the school at 174th and Casimir Ave. must walk along bustling Crossshaw Blvd. or wade through muddy areas on Arlington Ave.

There are no sidewalks or curbs on either, he advised. B. of E. President John A. Shidler said that the matter would be taken into consideration and asked John E. Mock, newly appointed school bus supervisor to survey routes and recommend any possible changes.

"TUT" candidates will be if they are successful, is anybody's guess. Although this is a certainty, Isen, who was Benstead's attorney during the recount following the last election, has often sought the position of city attorney. It is not too far-fetched to forecast that once in the council, Benstead, Isen and Drale would appoint Isen as city attorney. This would give them a 3-2 vote since Councilmen Spelman and Blount would never go along with the motion. If this should happen, the resulting situation is certain to be an interesting spectacle since the council would deadlock at 2-2 on naming a successor to Isen as councilman or on any other controversial issue.

Probability of working out a compromise between the school system buses and the Municipal Bus Lines was suggested.

Parents argued that their children had to walk out on the boulevard in wet weather, and it is extremely dangerous on foggy mornings.

Later in the meeting the Board voted to call for bids for a 70-80 seat Crown type coach with a 190-horsepower Hall-Scott motor to be delivered after the beginning of the next fiscal period, in July or August.

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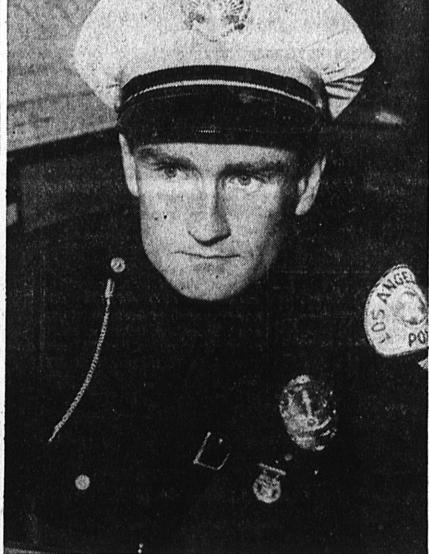
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Former 'Frogman' Says Plasma Saved His Life During the War

Officer John D. O'Neill dropped by the Red Cross headquarters yesterday and made an appointment for the next visit of the Bloodmobile here March 3.

The senior officer of the Traffic Accident Investigation Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, O'Neill had a story to tell about the blood bank.



JOHN D. O'NEILL ... Makes Payment on Debt

During World War II, while a member of the Navy, he was assigned to duty as a member of an underwater demolition team—now called "frogmen."

He was in Hawaii in April 1943, when a number of American combat ships blew up in the harbor, and he had many other occasions to see how Red Cross blood saved the lives of thousands of American servicemen during the war.

He best remembers how plasma saved his life in the Marshall Islands, however.

He tells it this way: "Prior to the Marine invasion of Roi-Namur in the Marshalls, my team was assigned to go in and blow up beach installations.

"We showed off at 3:20 a.m. and swam in 500 yards to the beach. We were on the beach an hour and one-half before the Japs found us.

"They opened up with small arms, and we hit the water to swim back to our ship.

"My five buddies were killed. As the ship was coming in to pick up the team, shore batteries opened up and a near miss exploded in the water under me.

"By the time they got me aboard the small ship, I was bleeding from the mouth, ears, and nostrils from internal injuries.

"I received 250cc of blood plasma on the deck of the boat and received another 250 cc later on a hospital ship. All in all, I received four transfusions.

"Without that blood, I would never have returned home."

That's O'Neill's story as he told it yesterday.

Since getting out of the service, he has been busy donating his own blood to the Red Cross as a repayment in kind for his life.

Not only that, he is one of the ablest recruiting sergeants the Bloodmobile could ever want. When he turns up to donate his pint of blood, he brings a group with him.

O'Neill was discharged from the Navy on April 27, 1948. He joined the Los Angeles Police force the following June.

In 1950, he joined the Army Reserve as a master sergeant and was on active duty with the Military Police for a year, receiving his release last December 14. He went back to work with the L. A. police the following day.

O'Neill now lives with his wife, Evelyn, and sons, Pat 5, and Danny 3, at 2111 LaSalle Ave.

Oh yes, Officer O'Neill is a strong booster for the March of Dimes, too. When Danny was 18 months old, he was stricken with polio. He is completely recovered now, his father reports—but the O'Neills have much to thank others for.

The Bloodmobile will return to Torrancia March 3. In the meantime, the annual fund-raising campaign of the organization is in full swing now, and contributors are assured that their donations will go to help civilians and the military as they have helped the O'Neills.

Tartar Teen Talk

By MARIAN McDONALD

As the voice of Jack O'Callin fades away, that of GeGe Johnson is heard over the pounding of the gavel, calling the meeting to order of Torrancia High's new Student Council. Ge Ge appears serious over the responsibility of being President, and the feeling of the new council seems to be the same. Some of the projects for this year's council includes:

- 1. Budget—planning how next year's money will be spent.
2. Permanent concession stand for football games.
3. Possibly a Valentine dance or a St. Patrick's Dance.
4. Planning the Spring elections.
5. Collecting pictures of the Torrancia High's past presidents.
6. Deciding on the court constitution for the Girls and Boys Courts.
7. Deciding whether or not to have a limit on the major or minor offices a student can hold.
8. Finishing the clean campus campaign.

"Fore" is the battle cry of Tartar golfers as they swoop down the girls' gym field over imaginary sand traps and water hazards. Flags stick up in the sunken garden to add that finishing touch to the golf course. The class held its breath as the teacher, Mrs. Betty Schaefer, puts, Plunk, in it goes and a sigh of relief is heard. This is a common scene since the girls have taken up golf in the gym classes.

Class elections are now in the process and we'll be able to tell you who won when the election

Paving Along Western Ave. Ordered by City

Additional paving along the west side of Western Ave. between 219th St. and 220th St. was ordered this week by the Public Works Department in Los Angeles with the awarding of a contract for the job.

Successful bidder for the work was Milar Nikoievich, who was granted the contract for \$2598. The specifications for the work call for grading, paving, curbs and gutters. To be paved is a five-foot wide section on the east side of Western Ave. in the one block.

The paving was ordered as a result of the improper drainage of the area during the recent heavy rains. Water from the street drained onto adjacent private property.

Five Divisions To Hit Field For YMCA Soon

Roy Peterson, commander of the YMCA Field Campaign, will send five "divisions" into the field Wednesday, Feb. 13, in an all-out effort to raise \$5000 for the current Support Campaign of the local youth organization. Consisting of four teams each, the five divisions have been named after the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Army and the Sea Bees.

Reporting in this week was Dr. Rollin Smith, driving force of the Initials Gifts Division. "So far we have raised \$2200 toward our goal of \$7500," he said. "Of this amount, \$350 was pledged by the Torrancia Educational Association, which consists of teachers in the Torrancia schools, and \$150 from the Torrancia Lions Club."

Top Enrollment Seen at Camino Interim Rate Hike Vetoed

Preliminary registration figures from El Camino College indicate that the school will continue to top all previous enrollment figures during the spring semester.

Each semester since the school's founding has brought a growth in number of people attending the two-year institution.

At the close of registration Thursday, 2967 students had enrolled for courses offered in the day and evening. This figure is 110 greater than the fall registration at the same time.

Late registrations are still being accepted at the tuition-free college.

Death Takes L. Ehrheart

Lawrence Franklin Ehrheart, 62, for two years a resident here, was entombed at Bellview Mausoleum, Ontario, Calif., Monday morning. Services were held at Stone & Myers Chapel, conducted by Torrancia lodge 447, F. & A.M., and the Rev. Leonard Babcock.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl, of 18402 Mansel Ave., three daughters, four sons, twelve grandchildren, one great grandchild and two brothers.

He was employed by the National Supply Co.

'Bees and Flowers' Opening Tomorrow

Ready for the opening night of their first 1952 production are members of the Hampton Players who will present "The Bees and the Flowers" at the Torrancia High School auditorium tomorrow and Saturday nights.

A Broadway hit and a movie topper (Three Daring Daughters), the play will offer an appropriate outlet for the diversified talents of the local cast.

Sailor Considers Blood A Loan, Not a Donation

"This could be a loan, not a donation," a sailor at the San Diego Naval Station said recently when pointing up the fact that servicemen's blood donations are almost always 100 per cent.



READY FOR CURTAIN ... Hal Douglas and Jane Lafferty say that they're ready for tomorrow night's opening of the Hampton Players' first 1952 production, 'The Bees and the Flowers' at the Torrancia High School auditorium. The cast is made up of local thespians belonging to the amateur group.